

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, as amended, remain herein.

The Office Action acknowledges that claims 10 and 12 are drawn to allowable subject matter.

1. The specification has been amended to moot the objections thereto. No new matter has been added.

2. Claims 1-7, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Nakaso U.S. Patent 6,654,475. Nakaso discloses an elongated speaker configuration having track-shaped voice coils with magnets disposed inside the voice coils, thus limiting the size of the magnets. One way to increase sound pressure levels using the Nakaso design would be to increase the size of the magnet; however, because the magnet is within the voice coils, increasing magnet size may require a corresponding increase in the size of the voice coils.

Applicants claimed invention improves upon conventional loudspeaker designs by placing bar magnets outside of the voice coils. Thus, the size of the bar magnets may be increased without a corresponding change in voice coil size. As the cross-sectional area of the magnets directly relate to the magnetic force of the magnetic circuit as well as the output sound power, the claimed loudspeaker design enables larger magnetic forces for a given size and, thus, greater output power. Nakaso fails to disclose a magnetic circuit arrangement forming an outer magnet type magnetic circuit as claimed.

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Nakaso does not disclose all elements of applicant's claimed invention and therefore is not a proper basis for rejection under § 102. Nor does Nakaso suggest applicant's claimed invention. Accordingly, claims 1-7, 13 and 14 are not anticipated by Nakaso, and applicants request withdrawal of this ground of rejection, and allowance of those claims.

3. Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Nakaso in view of Sueaki Japanese Patent Publication 05-191892. For the reasons set forth above, Nakaso fails to disclose all elements of applicant's claimed invention. Sueaki fails to disclose or suggest that which is missing.

Additionally, Sueaki fails to disclose any manner of manufacturing or forming a lower plate, much less a lower plate made in the claimed manner. Thus, there is no disclosure or teaching in Nakaso or Sueaki that would have suggested applicants' claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in the art. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection, and allowance of claims 8 and 9.

Furthermore, there is no disclosure or teaching in either Nakaso or Sueaki which would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions of those references effectively to anticipate or render obvious applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, the subject matter of claims 8 and 9 are nonobvious over Nakaso and Sueaki, and applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of those grounds of rejection.

4. Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nakaso in view of Sabato U.S. Patent 6,188,774. For the reasons set forth above, Nakaso fails to disclose all elements of

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applicant's claimed invention. Sabato fails to disclose or suggest that which is missing.

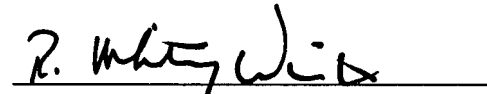
Additionally, Sabato fails to disclose any manner of manufacturing or forming an upper plate, much less an upper plate made in the claimed manner. Thus, there is no disclosure or teaching in Nakaso or Sabato that would have suggested applicants' claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in the art. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection, and allowance of claim 11.

Furthermore, there is no disclosure or teaching in either Nakaso or Sabato which would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions of those references effectively to anticipate or render obvious applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, the subject matter of claims 11 is nonobvious over Nakaso and Sabato, and applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of those grounds of rejection.

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This application is now fully in condition for allowance. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293 (Order No. 28951.2176). If further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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IN THE FIGURES:

Figure 13 has been amended to add the legend "PRIOR ART". A replacement sheet is attached.